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Obituaries

Bernard Buffet; Prolific French Painter

By MYRNA OLIVER
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Bernard Buffet, the critically scorned but commercially popular French painter who had two museums in Japan dedicated to his work, has committed suicide. He was 71.

Buffet was found Monday by his wife, Annabel, in a hallway near his studio in Tourteur, France, with a plastic bag over his head. Friends said that Buffet had Parkinson's disease, could no longer paint and told them he was tired of life.

Bucking the trend toward abstract art by his contemporaries, Buffet remained an outspoken advocate and practitioner of figurative painting. He was known for his distinctive black brush strokes and bright colors depicting gloomy elongated faces and buildings, particularly sketches of sad-faced clowns and imperial Russian palaces.

The prolific painter who became a millionaire by the age of 20 could complete a painting in half an hour and created more than 8,000 pictures. Complete with his trademark spiky signature, many were re-created as posters in the 1990s. Originals sell for prices ranging from $90,000 to $1 million.

Buffet's best notices in France came at the outset of his career but faded quickly. Trained at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris, he gave his first exhibition in 1946 when he was 18. Two years later he received the Prix de la Critique, and in 1955 he was designated one of the 10 best painters of the postwar era by the review Connaissance des Arts.

But France's most prestigious repository of modern and contemporary art, the Georges Pompidou Center, never bought any of Buffet's work.

His often gruesome paintings, including a series on the horrors of war, were said to reflect France's view of itself after the war but became too dreary as the nation emerged from its poverty and depression.

"Bernard Buffet, 30, of Paris, painted the gloom and hunger of the occupation, got rich at it, yet still paints like a starveling while living it up in a 17th-century chateau with park and Rolls-Royce with chauffeur," Arthur Miller wrote for The Times in 1958 when 24 of Buffet's canvases were exhibited in Beverly Hills at the Silagy Galleries.

"Buffet perfected his stark, gloomy style while cold and hungry in the capital of a country whose people were angry and confused and felt dishonored. His canvases . . . express stoical despair," Miller sniffed. "Only a few [people] want a Buffet in their living room; but those few have money and buy at high prices."

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art staged a Buffet exhibit in 1954.

In Rome, the Vatican Museum devoted an entire room to one of his works. In Russia, Buffet in 1961 became the first living artist to have a retrospective at the Hermitage and Pushkin museums. Japan, which Buffet frequently visited and used as a subject, opened its first museum devoted to his work in 1973.

Until illness overtook him, Buffet staged a major show a year, each with a central theme such as the circus, New York, birds, churches or portraits of his wife. He was an etcher, lithographer, designer and sculptor as well as a painter, and designed sets and costumes for plays and ballets, decorated chapels and illustrated books, including Jean Cocteau's "La Voix Humaine."

Bernard Buffet in 1993

In addition to his second wife, Annabel, Buffet is survived by three children.

Robert Marella in ring as wrestling villain "Gorilla Monsoon."

'Gorilla Monsoon' Marella; Wrestler, TV Announcer

From Associated Press

WILLINGBORO, N.J.—Former professional wrestler Robert "Gorilla Monsoon" Marella, one of the most beloved villains of the ring who became a television announcer for the World Wrestling Federation, has died at the age of 62.

Marella, who had suffered from diabetes and heart problems in recent years, died Wednesday at his home in this Philadelphia suburb, where he had been a longtime resident.

The 6-foot-6, 400-pound Marella began his wrestling career in the 1960s, competing in more than 8,000 matches before retiring in the early 1980s. He once shared a world tag team title with "Killer" Kowalski.

"Gorilla Monsoon was one of the best bad guys ever in the business," Bill Apter, editor in chief of World of Wrestling magazine, wrote in a tribute.

Initially a villain who feuded with pro wrestling legend Bruno Sammartino, Marella later became beloved among fans of the ever-growing entertainment genre. After retiring, he became a ringside analyst on WWF telecasts.

Marella was known for his on-air banter with colleague Jesse "The Body" Ventura—a former professional wrestler who is now governor of Minnesota.

"The loss of Gorilla Monsoon saddens me deeply," Ventura said in a statement. "He was both a friend and a colleague, and I have many fond memories of the time we spent together. He will be missed."

Marella grew up in western New York state. He began wrestling at the age of 8 in a YMCA. He later held New York scholastic records in the shot-put and discus.

He graduated from Ithaca College with a degree in physical education and physiotherapy, and worked briefly as a teacher before a wrestling promoter offered him $500 to enter the ring.

Despite his fearsome appearance, Marella's Willingboro neighbors remember him mainly as a loving father who prided himself on his lasagna.

Marella is survived by his wife, Maureen, a son and two daughters.

OBITUARIES/FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

OBITUARIES

Abramson, Florence · Anderson, Robert E. · Barbuti, Ruth · Bellagio, Florence L. · Bell, Ruth · Bethard, Lance · Bower-Hansen, Erin · Brown, Ruth · Brown, James · Brunk, Sophie · Bryan, Ruth · Bynes, Robert T. · Carman, George · Cole, Ruth · Dunbrooke, Hale · Farhat, Mary A. · Feldman, Gray · Fiat, Barbara G. · Fitzpatrick, Ralph G. · Ford, Ray A. · Gaines, Robert · Gardner, Mable I. · Gloer, Dorothy · Gonzales, Ruth · Gutekunst, Dorothy · Hanna, Ellie · Hill, Ruth · Hite, Ray E. · Hokes, Robert E. · Hunter, Ruth · Jackson, Anastasia G.

ABRAMSON, Florence
Hillside Memorial, 800-576-1991.

ANDERSON, Robert E. "Bob"
Born September 5, 1909 in Chicago, Illinois, and passed away suddenly on October 3, 1999 in Los Angeles. October 3, 1999 beloved father of Scott and Kimi; loving companion of Barbara Johnson; dear brother of cherished brother of Richard (Barbara) Johnson, William (Jeanne) Johnson, Jack (Jean) Johnson and the late Ruth Arth; and uncle to many. He was an Engineer for Douglas Aircraft and represented the ATA Graphics & Printing on Pueblo. Bob was a Mason for 50 years, a veteran of WWII and will be dearly missed by all.

Visitation today at 7pm at Calloway Mortuary, 1305 S. Western Ave., L.A.

Calloway Mortuary Directors,
323-382-3800.

BARBACH, Ruth
Mount Sinai Mortuary

BATEGATE, Frances L., 91, passed away October 1, 1999, in La Habra, California. Born in Dublin, Ireland, she was a resident of Fullerton. She will be sorely missed. Rosaries, were long time members of St. Jude's Church. She is survived by her sister, Helen Wilson; daughter, Barbara Bellagio; son, Jack Bategate and his wife, Liz; and granddaughter, Jennifer Bategate and her husband, Andrew.

Interment was October 6, at Pacific View Memorial Park in Newport Beach, California.

BENZIE, Lacy
Armstrong Family Directors

BERLAND, Lance
Mount Sinai Mortuary

BERNER-HANSEN, Erin
Forest Lawn-Hollywood Hills

BIGGS, Charles Ronald, born July 22, 1929 in Brooklyn, New York, passed away October 5, 1999 of a stroke.

Charles obtained a BS Degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1951 from Long Island University. A Marine in the Korean War, he graduated from Officer Candidate School in 1954. He was the first African-American U.S. County Engineer in Los Angeles County. He was the highest appointed African American government official west of the Mississippi.

Throughout his life, he fought doggedly for the rights of the handicapped. Survived by his wife, Shirley; sons, Bill Rodgers and Jim Wilson; daughter, Barbara Bellagio; son-in-law, Jack Bategate; sisters-in-law, Ruth Rodgers and Lois Wilson; brother-in-law, Bill Rodgers; and nine grandchildren. He was eight years older when he died, and divided much of his time these eight years between his home in Hawaii and his home in Los Angeles.

Survived by his accomplishments and by his children, Martin Biggs (deceased), Lois Marie (deceased) Hinnah Biggs, Charles Biggs (deceased), Harold Biggs (deceased), Sherrill Bell Babcock, the Reverend Dr. Thomas Biggs, eleven, his loving, generous, and gracious of heart wife, and always his friend, Ann Biggs, and his dog, a wake will be held on Friday, October 8 at 7:00pm at the home, 1000 Via Del Rey, Palos Verdes, a service on Saturday, October 9 at 10:30am at the Christian Fellowship Church, 1000 Via Del Rey, South Bay, Palos Verdes, (310)373-8665, reception to follow the service.

BIGGS, James
Mount Sinai Mortuary

BIGGS, Sophie
Beloved mother of Monty (deceased), Jackie (deceased), mother of Robert and Steven Brooks, devoted sister of Mary Bryan and Ruth Bryan (deceased), enjoyed loving companionship and kindness to Reverend Sunday at 3:30pm. Interment Pierce Brothers Valley Oaks Memorial Park.

BRANDT, Lorraine
Armstrong Family Directors

BRYANT, Frank B., passed away on October 5, 1999, of complications from cancer. He was a highly decorated veteran of WWII and Korea. He was a member of the Fountain Valley, active in the Boy Scouts, a member of the Rams and NFL Booster Clubs, and the Huntington Valley Boys & Girls Club. He is survived by his wife, Bernice; daughters, Karen and Kathy; 2 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, October 16, at 11:00 a.m. at Pacific View Memorial Park in Newport Beach. A Military Funeral Honor Guard will conduct services. Pacific View Memorial Park in Newport Beach.

BUSH, Robert W.
Mount Sinai Mortuary

CARNAS, Georgia
Neptune Society

CHUNG, Lucille Kinsey Born December 30, 1918, died September 28, 1999.

Survived by her son, Robert W. Queen and others, Betty Jane and Jeffrey Queen, and numerous nephews and grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held at 10:00am on Saturday, October 9 at Inglewood Park Mortuary, 720 West Manchester Blvd, Inglewood, CA.

A viewing will be held Friday, October 8th between 5:00pm and 7:00pm.

DOCTOR-GAYE, Elida
Hillside Memorial

FARRAT, Mary A.
Passed away October 4, 1999. Survived by her daughter, Patricia Capell, Gregory and Richard Furtak.

Rosary will be Saturday, October 9, 7:00 at 10:00am, Holy Cross Mausoleum Chapel, Culver City.

FEINBERG, Eleanor, Passed away October 3, 1999. Beloved wife of Herb. Loving mother of Judy and Saul. Cherished grandmother of Jessica.

Services Sunday, October 10, 1999 1pm, Mount Sinai Memorial Park.

Mount Sinai Mortuary.

GATES, Lucille Mae
Mount Sinai Mortuary

GLATT, Bernard, M.D.
Hillside Mortuary, 800-576-1991

GREITZER, Mildred
Hillside Mortuary, 800-576-1991

JETTKE, Lillian Pearl
Forest Lawn-Hollywood Hills

KAUFMAN, Jesse Jerome, 91, passed away in his home in Redondo Beach, on Yom Kippur, 5760. Survived by his wife, Lucille; daughter, Lorrie Lazar (New York); Growing up in Los Angeles, Jesse was born in Los Angeles and later worked at Uncle's dairy on Alvarado. Self-taught, he became a successful Japan, moved family to California after being stationed. At age 30, he founded Jesse Kaufman Realty Business, achieved success level, traveled the lowest many times.

Mount Sinai Mortuary, Hillside Hills, Oct. 8.

Donations: Memorials to City of Hope.

KEMP, James Ray
Armstrong Family Directors

KITCHEN, William F.
Mount Sinai Mortuary

KLAPOT, Henry Adam, born February 3, 1913 in Brooklyn, New York, passed away October 3, 1999. Long-time boating lighting designer. He designed the lighting for the Hollywood Bowl as well as numerous Las Vegas casinos and luxury residential installations. He studied at the Art Institute of Chicago and received his degree from the University of New Mexico and attended Yale University Graduate School of Fine Arts. He was a veteran of WWII. He was an active member of the Illuminating Engineering Society. He was a member of the Bel Air Bay Club, He was founder of The Classic Car Club of America and the Bel Air Association. He also served many years as secretary of Le Cercle and helped sponsor A's baseball in Los Angeles. He was a navy pentathlete in 1940, including Chairman of the 1987 National meet. He was a member of the Board of Presidents of Awards and the Southwest Region Director for the AAU. He was a member of USOC's highest award, The Presidents Trophy. A veteran of WWII, he served in the Navy as a Lt. Cmdr. A resident of Los Angeles since 1958, he joined Century City Country Club in 1964. He was 1986 with Los Angeles and later in partnership with the late Stan Laurel, owned several Ford Dealerships. He was extremely proud of his wife Irene.

LANGE, Margaret, wife of the late Dr. Alfred Lange, passed away October 3, 1999.

Funeral Mass Saturday, 10:30am, at Our Lady of Malibu, 300 N. Raymond Ave., Pasadena.

Cabot & Sons, Pasadena, Directors, 626-795-7126.

LEVIN, Cecile Tuvak, of Culver City, died September 30, 1999 in Encinitas. New York, died on October 5, 1999.

Cecile, a retired psychiatric teacher and health for more than 20 years, Cecile earned her B.A. from the University of Texas and her M.S. in Education from New York University. She studied at the Menninger Foundation and The New School for Social Research in New York, the National Psychological Institute in Los Angeles, the World University of Israel, and the Acupressure Institute in Berkeley.

A lifelong student of the philosophies of health and spiritual growth, Cecile was a member of numerous teachings across the United States, in Europe, Hong Kong, India and Japan and has taught her methods of relaxation around the world. In 1988 she founded the Los Angeles Free Clinic. She is survived by her husband, Dr. Jerry Levin; her daughter, author Dr. Christiane Northrup, M.D.; and her son, Arnold Kruzman.

Memorial services for family and friends will be held Friday, October 15, 1999.

LUCHA, Steve
Armstrong Family Directors

MARQUIS, Merelyn
Mount Sinai Mortuary

NEWCOMER, Donald, 84, passed away October 1, 1999.

Arrangements entrusted to Turner Funeral Home, Inglewood.

O'ROURKE, Joseph E., died of Lou Gehrig's disease, after a long illness. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Mary; 4 children, Joseph, Jr., Mary, Kathleen and Michael; 8 grandchildren; and 2 great-grandchildren. A Memorial service will be held at 7:00pm, on October 12, 1999, at the Church of Galilee Church, Northridge.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the ALS Assn., 21700 Oxnard St., Ste 1950, Woodland Hills, CA 91367.

Burton & Prevett, Northridge, 818-886-4000.

Andrew Chan
Talbert Chan

Call Mr. Kuo • 800-576-4637
Ext. 7720 or Ext. 7724

PALMER, Dorothy F., 91, homemaker from Jordan, California, passed away October 1, 1999. Survived by her daughter, D Craig Parker; Peter L. Palmer and Dr. Victoria Palmer; grandchildren, Jeffrey Parker, Christopher Parker, Jocelyn and Dustin; and two great-grandchildren.

Graveside service be held on Friday, October 8 from 4:00 to 5:30pm at Pacific View Mortuary with Kamal Shriner officiating. Pacific View Mortuary, 3500 Pacific View Drive, Corona Del Mar.

Pacific View Mortuary, 3500 Pacific View Drive, Newport Beach, 949-644-3410.

PERLSTEIN, Gertrude
Armstrong Family Directors

PLATT, Barbara G.
Mount Sinai Mortuary

PRICE, Ruth Elizabeth "Bliss", Age 72, born July 5, 1927, Washington, passed away October 2, 1999. Survived by husband of 49 years, James S. Dunsmore; daughter, Paula K. Harvey; son, Jeffrey Price; 3 grandchildren; sisters, Helen Mundell and Joan Curtis.

Memorial service held at Rose Hills Memory Gardens, Tuesday, Oct. 7, 9a-4:30p, Gate #1 and Friday, Oct. 8, 9am, Services Chapel. Interment Rose Hills Friday, Oct. 8, 1pm, Garden of Love Lawn, 3888 S. Workman Mill Rd., Whittier. Arrangements by Rose Hills Memorial Park, 562-699-0921.

REED, Roy L.
Armstrong Family Directors

RI MO, George, April 27, 1935 - October 6, 1999.

George died on Saturday of the San Fernando Valley, passed away peacefully at the University Medical Center in South Las Vegas, Nevada, on October 6, 1999. He is survived by his beloved wife, Pamela, and children, Stephen, Cynthia, Nancy, Jeffrey, Lori, Paul and Ann, sisters, Rose Marie and Josefine, brother, grandchildren, Jessica, Jennifer, Brandon, Lindsey-Ann, Nicholas, Chelsey, Katy, Brenda, Drew, Matthew, Jacob, Sarah, Ryan, Jonathan, Sarah, George, Michael and Andrew. He was also loving stepfather to Jeffrey, Lisa, Kelly, Kevin, Kristi and grandfather to children participant in sports.

George enjoyed a career in Sales Management with Building Materials Co., his own companies, Rolm Tricycle and Rolm Industries, Inc. He retired in 1988. He was a mentor to so many people in his life. He was held in great respect among his peers and co-workers throughout his career.

He loved to adventure family members and co-workers alike to Las Vegas for fun.

The funeral will be held on Saturday, October 9, 1999 at 12:30pm at Forest Lawn Mortuary, 6300 Forest Lawn Drive, off the Freeway adjacent to Universal Park, followed by a reception.

REID, George S.
Forest Lawn-Hollywood Hills

REIS, Mary Jean
Forest Lawn-Hollywood Hills

SILVER, Dorothy
Groman Eden Mortuary

SPIKER, Harold "Spike"
Forest Lawn-Hollywood Hills, 323-254-3131

STACKPOLE, Dorothy
Armstrong Family Directors

THOMAS, Elihu "Lew" passed away on October 6 1999.

Lew was born in Valley City, on 6 from 2pm-4pm, with Prayers services on Sunday, 3pm at Rose Hills Memorial Park, 3888 Workman Mill Rd. Funeral Mon.

VARNER, Robert Kaye, passed away Sat. Oct. 2, 1999. He is survived by his wife, Jeanne; sons Barbara Ingraham, all extended Yates and Ella family. Robert was a graduate of USC as an Electrical Engineer. He touched so many people's lives, and I'll miss him dearly.

Funeral Service is 11:00AM Tuesday, October 12, 1999 at Hillside Memorial Park (310) 391-3451.

VARANAKI, Sandra, 70, passed away on Sept. 29, 1999 in Los Angeles, native of Tulsa Tex Tennessee and Kansas (Signet) Mahoney, graduate